

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 3

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

Samples I've received via "Ask an Expert", e-mail, and my cell phone over the past couple weeks include old scale infestations, wasps, western pine seed bug, leaf-footed bugs and aphids. Earlier today, I was bombarded by aggressive male carpenter bees as they establish territories where they hope to meet females.

CARPENTER BEES are actively flying around looking for mates, for locations to lay eggs, or flowers for food. Male carpenter bees will frequently hover as they look for mates and are completely harmless because they lack a stinger. They have a yellow patch of hair on their head--easy to see as they hover. This group of bees looks like bumble bees but lack the hair bumble bees have on their abdomens. Female carpenter bees will chew holes in bare, unpainted or soft wood. Carpenter bees attack redwood, cedar, cypress or pine, as windowsills, roof eaves, shingles, railings, telephone poles and sometimes doors or wooden lawn furniture.

In the past, pressure treated wood or copper arsenate treated wood was rarely attacked; however current safer pressure treated woods appear to be susceptible to this bees' excavating activities. Females chew into the wood to form brood chambers. She lays an egg and leaves 'bee bread', composed of pollen and regurgitated nectar, which the larva eats. Each tunnel will typically have six to eight brood chambers and there is only one generation per year. Bees complete development by August and they emerge to feed on nectar until they return to the tunnels to overwinter.

If treatments for the bees are desired, various insecticide dusts can be applied to the entrances using a duster, which will puff the dust into the tunnel. It is best to make these treatments at night to reduce the possibility of being stung. Leave tunnels unplugged
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DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

GYMNOSPORANGIUM RUSTS have been more common in the landscape, with the telial stage of the fungus showing on juniper hosts and the aecial stage showing on pomaceous hosts such as apple and pear. Telial structures are visible now on juniper. To manage, break the disease cycle by pruning out affected portions of juniper host plants where rust fungi over-winter. Teliospores germinate to form basidiospores, which are very small and easily carried on winds. Spores are carried to the alternate hosts in the spring where they cause leaf and fruit spots. Cedar apple rust (*G.*

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WEEDS

John Emerson
Nutrient Management Agent

SPRING LAWN CARE. If you haven't put out your pre-emergent herbicide yet now is the time! The window of opportunity is closing soon. Also, now is a good time to address post-emergent control of any broadleaf weeds. ie: white clover, henbit, purple deadnettle, wild violet, and dandelions etc.. If you are going to fertilize your lawn to provide a nitrogen push for spring green-up, make sure you have a soil test done first then follow the recommendations for fertility. A small amount (0.25-0.50 lbs of N/1000ft²) of slow release (WIN) nitrogen will be enough this time of the year.



Carpenter bee. Photo credit: D. Cappaert, bugwood-org

For more information

on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

View more pictures at <http://extension.udel.edu/ornamentals/>

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